

Mary Lou Terrien

From: amy.c.elliott@gmail.com on behalf of Amy Elliott Bragg <amyelliottbragg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:13 AM
To: Mary Lou Terrien
Subject: OPPOSED to HB 5232

Hello Mary Lou,

Please record my strong opposition to HB 5232 in its current form.

While I am pleased that some amendments are being considered, specifically the elimination of the 10-year sunset clause and the general electorate vote to approve a proposed historic district, I still have problems with some of the proposed changes that have been widely circulated by Rep. Afendoulis, many of which erode rather than strengthen local control:

1. A majority vote by the City Council or local government unit is already required for a historic district to become law. Lansing should not tell local municipalities how to approve local laws such as historic district ordinances. Local municipalities who prefer a 2/3 majority vote by the local unit should be able to decide this locally.
2. Mandating that local units of government provide an appeals process creates an undue administrative burden for our local government units and introduces a great deal of political influence into the process. I support the creation of local historic review appeals boards, similar to zoning boards of appeals, or having a state review board to hear appeals, *as a local unit of government deems appropriate*.
3. I disagree with the requirement that a study committee be composed of individuals with specific professional affiliations without offering a recourse for communities who might not be able to locate such individuals in their area. Again, the make-up of a historic study committee should be determined by a local unit of government.
4. I do not support allowing a historic district commission to review applications with any standards they choose to adopt. The Secretary of Interior Standards are a nationally accepted standard of historic review. Instead, I support more comprehensive and frequent training in interpreting the Standards for members of the local historic review board.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

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Amy Elliott Bragg
Preservation Detroit
President | Board of Directors
248-885-2282
aelliottbragg@preservationdetroit.org